



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence and a self introduction.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
John Hammargren
Ann S. Hill
Carl Moore

Guests

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department
David Coleman, Internal Services Department
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Barbara Butler, DCFS
Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor Controller's Office
Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Captain Warren Asmus, LASD

Staff

Lee Millen
Roy Sinclair

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Auditor Controller's Office

Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor Controller, reported the Ombudsman team is presently planning to strategically visit over 150 group homes next year. The team's assistant is mailing brochures and posters to outlying homes; *County of Los Angeles Children's Group Home Ombudsman* posters were distributed for Commissioners' posting at group homes.

Commissioner Moore noted that he had requested Personal Right's posters for distribution at Group Homes; Ms. Youngblood agreed to provide posters at a future meeting. Also, Commissioner Hammargren requested that the Ombudsman's Office alert the Commission on issues that Commissioners could assist on.

Department of Children and Family Services

In response to Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services, staff reported that e-mails forwarded to Business Meeting attendees will include Ms. Channel and Ms. Butler. Commissioner Hall requested that Business Meeting representatives respond promptly to Commission requests for additional information; staff will e-mail representatives one week prior to the meeting with any Commission requests.

In response to Commissioner Hall, Ms. Channel advised that Vista del Mar is an all male facility, the community treatment facility (CTF) is on a single campus, program has been established for a number of years, and it is DCFS' most restrictive setting. Also, Star View who is a sister facility, differs greatly due to demographics: it is not a campus and is located in a residential community, CTFs are Level 14, it is coed, the staffing level differs, and start-up group home programs have a different contract Program Statement.

Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services, reported that General Neglect cases have 7 evaluated out, 7 are pending, and 1 was substantiated; Physical Abuse cases have 1 evaluated out and 2 is pending; and Sexual Abuse cases have 1 evaluated out, 1 pending for a total of 20 reports. Also, there were 487 AWOLS. The large number includes runaways that went to the store and returned without reporting their whereabouts, or did not come home from schools although the caregiver knows the student may be at school; the group home contract requires that absences be reported for the provider to be in compliance. The community Provider does have a Runway Sub-Committee to discuss changes that can be implemented to address this issue of AWOLS; it is a grave concern to the Department, providers, and police departments. Further, the DCFS I-Track System provides data on runaways but does not differentiate on the various types/incidents.

Ms. Channel distributed information regarding the United Friends of the Children College Ready Scholarship Program for any Los Angeles County or Probation suitable foster youth currently a high school senior. Anyone can provide them a name and UFC will forward an application to the foster youth.

Internal Services Department

David Coleman, Internal Services Department, reported that ISD received approximately 9,700 calls this past month and handled all with a 92% on time rate.

Probation Department

Commissioner Hall commended Camp Glenn Rockey's enthusiastic leadership for their service provided to the kids, and noted that the supervisor sponsored barbeque for staff in appreciation for their hard work was commendable. Commissioner Hammargren noted that when Commissioner Hill noticed that the camp was flying a tattered US flag she contacted Congressman David Drier's office and the camp was provided a new flag. Commissioner Bigby noted that she was impressed with the probation staff's handling of a disoriented youth. Also, Chairperson Montañó advised that the camp buildings and benches with covers need sanding and painting. Further, Commissioner Hammargren noted that the camp menu met the minimum requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables, however, more should be done in this regard.

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, reported that Camps Dorothy Kirby and Rockey have kids with severe mental issues, therefore, culinary classes for the boys has stopped. There were 73 AWOLs in the month of October, 47 remained AWOL, 12 returned to group homes, and 14 are in juvenile halls or camps. Child Abuse cases included 24 that were informational only, and two (2) referrals were investigated. Group Home investigations included five (5) unfounded cases, three (3) on-going, and one (1) unsubstantiated. Ms. Youngblood reported that she and the Ombudsman visited Rosemary's Children Services group home regarding appropriate hair care products provided to African American youth. The accusations were substantiated, and following discussions with the provider the issue was resolved.

Mental Health Department

There was no representation.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, noted that a Deputy will attend the next business meeting to provide an overview on inspection gear issues, et al. She provided the Inmate Assaults stat report, the LA County General Population Housing Menu, and the LAC General Population Men's Central Special Menu was distributed to address Commissioners' concerns regarding adequate menus for those in custody. Also, a sample hygiene packet was distributed that is provided at jail custody facilities.

Commissioner Hall commended Captain Asmus for ensuring that Central Jail gate is now functioning. Commander Ruiz noted that the LCMC gate will be repaired and a follow-up report will be provided; waiting on a part to complete repair.

Captain Asmus reported that SCBA gear (air packs) were replaced due to a bacterial borne issue; they are expensive. Adequate lockups are being addressed in new courthouses, 10 individual cells are being designed to prevent suicides (hanging) and for officer safety, and hard doors will have safety glass. Also, the State Fire Marshall's preference is to keep court jail locking doors unlocked, however, they will remain locked down. Further, new courthouses include Glendale, Santa Clarita, and Long Beach sites; Long Beach should be completed in four years.

Captain Asmus will forward a letter of invitation to Commissioners to review the new portable individual specialized cells, and to attend the Sheriff's Santa's Village at Star Center, Whittier, on December 5, 2010 that will include snow, reindeer, and penguins.

In response to Vice Chair Bacio, Captain Asmus reported that coded gun lockers have been installed, however, he will report back on why not at Central Juvenile Court; and he will relay concern for cameras at Juvenile Hall/Court lockups.

Chairperson Montaña requested that Department Representatives report back on issues that arise at business meetings no later than two (2) weeks following the meeting; the response can be relayed to staff for distribution to Commissioners.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of November 10, 2010 were approved with an edit on Page 3, "...bathroom doors screwed shut...".

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Reviewed Los Angeles Times Newspaper articles:

- *Child Welfare Chief May be Ousted (11/13/2010)*
- *"Crisis" Found at Child Abuse Agency (11/12/2010)*
- *Looking Out for the Children (11/17/2010)*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,143.78. A \$100 check will be provided to "Tierra Del Sol Foundation"; staff was provided the check for mailing to former Commissioner Vitto Canella who heads this Foundation.

STAFF REPORT

Lee Millen, Staff, reported that the Commission's annual Holiday Gathering at Taix Restaurant is scheduled on December 1, 2010 at 11:45 am. following the Commission meeting, and staff will post a cancellation Notice of the November 24, 2010 meeting, and copy Commissioners.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES
INSPECTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 11, 2010 TO OCTOBER 16, 2010**

Olive Crest Treatment Center – 31, #3 - Chairperson Montaña The facility was visited on November 15, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Optimist Boy's Home – 31, #4 - Chairperson Montaña The facility was visited on November 16, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Penny Lane #6 – 35, #4 - Commissioners Bigby and Hill The facility was visited on November 16, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Commissioners were impressed with the vast array of educational materials and an excellent kitchen.

Trinity Children Family Service – 44, #2 – Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hammargren The facility was visited on November 16, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Four housing units are being remodeled.

You are the Difference Foundation #2 – 47, #4 - Commissioner Moore The facility was visited on November 16, 2010, however, it was not inspected in that staff was leaving to pickup a client. A re-visit will be scheduled.

Touch A Life Foundation – 43, #4 - Commissioner Moore The facility was first visited on November 3, 2010, and no one was home. A follow-up visit occurred on November 12, 2010, however, the inspection was not completed in that staff had to leave to pickup their clients from school. A re-visit will be scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hammargren recommended the following: (1) All e-mails to Department representatives will be copied to Commissioners, and these e-mail notices will be included in the Sybil Brand Commission packet; and (2) that Staff forward Department responses to Commissioners prior to the Business Meeting. The Commission concurred.

Commissioner Hill reported that her three recommended scholarship awardees are in school, are employed and are doing well. Commissioner Moore requested that Staff include Commission requests of business representatives in the minutes, and that the Reporting Guidelines for Department Representatives add the previous Auditor Controller requirement (first item) to the DCFS column as its last item on the matrix.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.